(3) Areas within the reserved forests suitable for paddy cultivation should be given on lease for cultivation, or, if that was considered impracticable, the Agricultural Department might be asked to cultivate paddy therein.

(4) The ryots should be given seeds, manures and agricultural implements on the credit system.

(5) The distribution of rice to the various taluks should be based on population.

(6) Industries must be encouraged.

(7) The price of the report of the Director of Industries was very high and should be reduced. The report contained numerous errors of facts. Another Industrial Survey should, therefore, be conducted by a Committee composed of the Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries, a new expert Director of Industries to be appointed, and the leading merchants of the State.

(8) Industries should be classified as major and minor, the latter being arranged to be conducted in the School of Arts.

(9) Those trained in minor industries should be sent out as teachers in schools, one of such industries being made an optional subject of study.

(10) Co-operative Societies should be established in industrial centres for giving loans for helping industries.

(11) Major industries should be promoted by Government themselves or with the co-operation of the people.

(12) A laboratory should be attached to the Industries Department, which should conduct experimental operations there and publish the results for the information of the public.

(13) The system of inheritance among the Nair community was a serious handicap to individual credit so much required in trade and commerce. It should be changed and individual partition and Makkathayam should be allowed.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

147. Measures to be adopted by Government for relieving the distress caused by the high prices of the necessaries of life.

Mr. P. Sankara Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) submitted that, if the Civil Supplies Department was to be abolished from Meenom as stated in the Dewan's opening address, it would lead to much misery among the people. What was wanted was that Government should get down not only rice but other necessaries of life also and have them distributed to the people at a reasonable price. A Committee of officials and important merchants should be established to see that the articles were sold at the fixed prices.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

148. Need for a better administration of the Civil Supplies Department.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) first requested that the Government, as stated in the Dewan's address, should not abolish the Civil Supplies Department till the market became steady, for fear of severe hardship to which the people would be exposed. He then referred to the riot that broke out in Bezwada as a result of the removal of such restrictions. He divided his subject into two parts, *viz.* (1) the actual getting of supplies and (2) the distribution and control of the same. The public were agreed that they were under great obligation to the present administration for courageously coming forward and importing rice at considerable cost which saved the country from a great crisis. But the moot point that had been agitating the public mind was whether rice had been purchased in the cheapest market. There was also the question of short weight. The Member then referred to the interpellations he had intended to put in the Legislative Council on the question of Civil Supplies and read out those interpellations. Since then the reports of the Director of Civil Supplies were published in the *Gazette*, but they did not give all the information

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the Member wanted. At what price was the rice purchased ? Was it at the maximum controlled price? Was there any short weight? If so, who was responsible for it? Those were questions the answers to which would be instructive to the public. The published reports were not of any use. There was a suspicion lurking in the public mind that all the transactions were not above board and unless those matters were looked into carefully, they were likely to remain a mystery. It had been said again that the rice purchased was very bad. Was it true? Or was it due to the importing agents or other causes? Were any particular firms favoured, or were any special arrangements made for transport which tended to increase the price? Those were points on which no information was available in the published reports of the Director of Civil Supplies. The Member requested that those points be looked into.

In regard to the distribution of rice, it could not be said that the arrangements made were satisfactory. The Member then questioned the correctness of the opinion of Mr. Moir who had remarked about a sale depot that it "was a model of what such a centre ought to be". What happened in retail sale depots was that, as only one Policeman was put in charge of a depot, rice was taken to unlicensed merchants and sold at double the controlled price, the Policeman also sharing the profit. In such retail sales ordinary people were not given one full measure of rice. Another malpractice was that wet rice was sold, the profits resulting from all those malpractices being shared by the Policeman in charge. It would be interesting if an enquiry were ordered regarding the earnings of Policemen after the introduction of the Civil Supplies Department. The general impression was that every Policeman had made a lot of money. Under those circumstances it was desirable that an enquiry should be made. Another aspect of the distribution was that there were hard cases in which poor women and children who came to purchase rice at twice the normal price were treated as beggars and had oftentimes to go back empty-handed. The Member then dealt elaborately with the 'chit' system of distribution for middle class people. That system gave room for a good deal of corruption, because of the indiscriminate issue of chits; and the profits were shared both by the Police and the merchants. He could not understand why poor clerks in Government offices should not be given controlled rice, for, when they wanted it, they were asked to buy the costly rice at double the price. His point was that the poor man did not get rice, though he paid dearly for it. As an instance of unsatisfactory distribution, the Member cited the case of the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee. According to the calculation of that body they wanted 500 bags of rice daily for distribution. But the Police authorities had decided that 250 bags should be sufficient; and that meant that several people would be starving. In conclusion, the Member suggested that non-official agencies should be utilised for the distribution of rice. In Trivandrum and other urban areas the Municipalities might be entrusted with the work and in other places a Committee of 5 or 6 men elected by the people should do the work. No Policeman should have anything to do with the sale of rice. Mr. Cunningham himself had admitted that in Thiruvalla the system of sale by the non-official body worked well. That system should be extended to other places. At present the Advisory Committees had nothing to do with the distribution of rice. The best arrangement was distribution by a non-official agency or by the Municipality concerned. The second suggestion of the Member was that it should not be possible for any one to sell rice at a price higher than the fixed rate. If, in Burma and Kistna, price could be fixed at the risk of its being commandered, he could not understand why it should not be fixed here.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will receive consideration.

149. Grievances of the Chalia community.

Mr. V. S. Ramaswami (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) represented that his community was in a backward condition in regard to education, only 5 per cent. among them being literate. They were once a very enterprising community and had as many as 76 shops in the Agastiswaram taluk alone dealing in cotton thread. But they had all disappeared now because of the advent of machine labour. In modern

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